

REMARKS

The present Office Action addresses and rejects claims 1-9 and 11-13. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the following remarks.


Applicants thank Examiner Philogene for extending the courtesy of a personal interview to Applicant's undersigned representative on June 8, 2009. During the interview, agreement was reached that the pending claims distinguish over U.S. Patent 6,626,939 to Burnside ("Burnside"), which is used as the basis for a §102(e) rejection.

In particular, the Examiner agreed that Burnside fails to teach or suggest a device with a bioabsorbable lubricating coating on both first and second contact surfaces, as required by claims 1, 5, and 9. Further, and as also required by claims 1, 5, and 9, Burnside also fails to disclose first and second contact surfaces that are bioabsorbable. Accordingly, independent claims 1, 5, and 9, as well as claims 2-4, 6-8, and 11-13 which depend directly or indirectly therefrom distinguish over Burnside and represent allowable subject matter.

In light of the above, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and allowance thereof is respectfully requested. Examiner Philogene is urged to telephone the undersigned attorney for Applicants if such communication is deemed to expedite prosecution of this application.

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Respectfully submitted,

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